

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028607
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

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R 022343Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028607

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. TO KEEP YOU IN PICTURE RE SHALOM'S TRAVEL PLANS, HIS SECRETARY CALLED HOWELL FEB. 2 TO SEEK ADVICE RE OBTAINING SECOND PPTS FOR SHALOM'S WIFE AND MOTHER. SHALOM PLANS TO VISIT DAMASCUS O/A MARCH 10 ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND MOTHER. HE WILL APPARENTLY LEAVE US FOR ISRAEL IN MID-FEBRUARY. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS HIS TRAVEL PLANS ARE FIRMED UP.

2. HOWELL TOOK OCCASION OF PHONE CALL TO INQUIRE RE STATUS OF MARRIAGE PETITIONS SHALOM HAS PROMISED. SECRETARY SAID SHE IS WORKING ON THEM AND AT PRESENT HAS 16 PROCESSED THROUGH LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES. SHE SAID SHALOM HOPES TO COLLECT APPROXIMATELY 40 PETITIONS BEFORE FORWARDING THEM TO US. HOWELL SUGGESTED THAT EFFORT BE MADE TO EX-
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PEDITE PROCESS SINCE LACK OF PROGRESS COULD INDUCE INTERESTED BUT UNINFORMED PERSONS TO MAKE UNHELPFUL PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITHOUT REALIZING WHERE BOTTLENECK IS. SHE SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO COLLECT FURTHER PETITIONS. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ONLY, STADIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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